

Samuel Linnell and the War of 1812

By Dan McConnell



Much of the Mid-Western branch of the Linnell family is descended from Samuel Linnell [118,241,1] of Grindstone Island in the St. Lawrence River, the border between Canada and the USA. His life and family are very well covered

in *The Descendants of Robert Linnell* [pages 331-334], by our own Rachel Linnell Wynn.

Recently, I was reading an excellent new history of the War of 1812 called "The Civil War of 1812" by the famous historian, Alan Taylor. He calls it a Civil War, because the people on both sides of the border were similar people, frequently related or well known to each other. The War was mostly fought along the border, between British Regular Army and Navy units, British-allied Indian tribes, plus local Canadian militia [many of whom were ex-American Loyalists], and, on the other side, American militia and US Navy. The warfare was extremely nasty with great loss of life, and severe destruction of towns and farms on both sides of the border. Living on Grindstone Island, Samuel Linnell and his family were right in the middle of it.

The St. Lawrence River was the only supply line to the settlements of Upper Canada [now Ontario]. The forts at Niagara were hotly contested, and York [now Toronto] was twice destroyed. More of concern to Samuel Linnell and his family was the decision of the American Government under President Madison to create a major American Naval base at Sackett's Harbor in Jefferson County, just a few miles away from Clayton and Grindstone Island.

(Samuel Linnell—War of 1812 - Continued on Page 5)

Editor's Note: This is the second article submitted by Orrell Linnell about life during WWII. His articles were previously published in the *Advertiser-Democrat*, a local newspaper in Norway, Maine. In this article Orrell chronicles his travels to the west coast toward the end of WWII. This is Part Two of "A Landlubber Goes West". In Part One, Orrell had traveled from Maine to the state of Washington. That is where we pick up Orrell in Part Two.

A Landlubber Goes West

(Part Two)

By Orrell Linnell



One thing I didn't do, but wish I could have, was to hunt agates. They were out there in the desert but I had no way to get around. They were semi-hard stones and some of the most beautiful colors when cut and polished. I met a man who had found a lot. He had them cut and sold me a small box of them. There were about 20 stones, some cut for rings, lockets and pendants. Some of the ring stones I used later.

After working at Hanford four months, we got notice that the construction phase was finished by E. I. DuPont. We could apply to go on production. This would be working for the U.S. Government.

(It was no wonder we weren't told what was going on. After the war was over we learned that all this work in progress was in preparation for making the atom bombs that were dropped on Japan.)

It was now winter and I had hardly seen the sun for four months. I had been at Hanford so I took a train back to Seattle. Back home I had been used to skiing some at Pleasant Mountain, Cranmore and some at Wildcat. Fool like, I didn't do any inquiring and when I did found that Mt. Rainier was not open because of the gas rationing. Perhaps there would be something at Mt. Hood so I bought a train ticket to Portland. The conductor must have smiled a little at seeing this dude all decked out in ski equipment come aboard. Anyway, he had information.

(A Landlubber Goes West - Continued on Page 3)

Letter From The Chairman

By Jerry Linnell



Greetings, my dear cousins.

Late February is still mighty cold in so many parts of the country but thoughts of spring keep us on the upbeat as we look forward to summer and our vacations. You are probably digging into your pocket calendar quite frequently these days to check to see what you are doing on such and such a date in hopes that you will be able to touch base with as many family members as possible in your travels this year. I know I am looking forward to traveling to Grand Marais/Grand Portage in late April, early May to attend the planning meeting for our June 22-24, 2012 LFA reunion. As always, there is a lot to do to get ready for such a fun time. A lot of us on the steering committee look forward to that weekend so much because of another visit to the old homestead of so many of our descendants that it makes planning lots of fun, believe it or not. Of course, I am putting the night crawler on my 10 lb test line hoping that those cousins who consider themselves local will take the bait, get caught up in the excitement and join us in April at the Casino in Grand Portage to help plan to make next year's event one of the best ever.

While I was thinking of fishing, why not turn my attention to hunting for a minute. As you know, spring brings with it our LFA scholarship hunt for the best presentation by one of our youngsters weaving a fine tale about a past or present family member who has been such an important or interesting part of their young life. And to the winner, of course, goes a \$1,000 scholarship to help defray some of the cost of attending an institution of higher learning of their choice.

Now, if you remember any of the history of this scholarship expedition, you will know that the Roberts family has had great mastery at tracking down and capturing this prized trophy. So let's set a trap alongside theirs and see if we can snare another winner to stand as tall as they have at the Saturday night feast and award ceremony.

Of course, when we talk about hunting and fishing, we have to make sure we have the proper license to engage in this activity. And that fits right into my annual request that everyone slip their dues payment in an envelop and mail it to our Treasurer, Scott Linnell, 23 Liberty Knoll Dr., Colt's Neck, NJ 07722 . And darn, if that

doesn't bring up another subject for discussion around the cabin campfire. As you may or may not know or remember, we (as is the Federal Government) are trying to cut the costs of doing business; namely, that of mailing out paper copies of our newsletter, by getting people to read one of their favorite publications online. So if you will drop an email to Lori Linnell, Membership Chairman, at membership@linnellfamilyassociation.com, she will have our newsletter editors Brian and Kathy Linnell take you off the mailing list - not forever now, just for receipt of the newsletter via the US Post Office.

Well, if I don't stop and wrap this up so I can get it in on the deadline, you won't get to say you "heard it from Washington." Have a great spring. I hope to see some of you in Grand Marais soon. WOW WOW WOW, what a great spot in our Lord's kingdom. You better start planning your 2012 trek to the great northeast of Minnesota. Some people say, "Plan to bring a friend." I say, "Plan to bring lots of your immediate family."

Your chairperson,
Jerry Linnell



Remember to Tell Family and Friends...

- ◆ If they're not a "Life" member or haven't joined the LFA in the last 3 years, they will no longer be receiving a hard copy of the LFA Newsletter;
- ◆ It is easy to join..... Just use the form here in the newsletter or go online at <http://www.linnellfamilyassociation.com/>;
- ◆ Mark your Calendars for the next LFA Reunion being held in Grand Marais/Grand Portage , MN June 22-24, 2012;
- ◆ Send the editors a Linnell story or article for the next newsletter.....WE Need YOU!

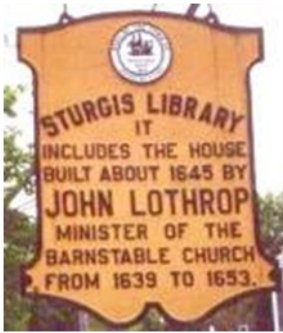
Book Review

“Exiled; The Story of John Lathrop, 1584-1653”

By Helene Holt

Fourth Edition, Oxbow Publishing, Isleton, CA, 2010; ISBN 978-0-9831058-0-0

Reviewer, Dan McConnell,
Cape Cod Genealogical Society



The “reading” of history may be interesting and profound, or dull drudgery, depending so very much on the depth of research, and the knowledge and skill of the author. The “living” of history, especially in desperate times, may be truly heroic and memorable. Our historical understanding of Reverend John Lothrop is

that he was a major figure in the English reformation, a formative actor in the emergence of the Congregational Church in England and America, and the founding minister of Scituate and Barnstable, MA. It is the context of his times that we have a hard time envisioning. His world was utterly different from ours. How to understand it?

The book, “Exiled” by Helene Holt, recently released in its fourth edition, is “living history” in its finest form. Ms. Holt’s research is first-rate, both in the historical facts concerning the life of John Lothrop [variously spelled Lothrop and Lathrop in America, but Lothrop in England], and in the religious and social background of early 17th Century London.

Ms. Holt tells the story of John Lothrop in biographical form and as historical fiction, using the real characters, plus a few imagined ones to evoke a true feel for the times. She creates vivid scenes of the public torture of dissenting ministers, the arrest and capture of Rev. Lothrop’s congregation, their trial before the inquisitional Court of High Commission, and their long incarceration in unimaginably dangerous and foul prisons. She adds scenes of family life that help our understanding of the people and times.

She carries the story through the two year imprisonment of Reverend Lothrop, during which time his wife dies, and his children are left destitute, then concludes with his release and flight, with his many children, to America in 1634. The historical impact of Reverend John Lothrop on our country and the large number of his descendents commends his story to our attention.

Ms. Holt brings it to life, and makes it human and inspiring. I recommend this book to anyone who tries to understand the realities of the desperate struggles and ultimate triumphs of the early founders of our American society. In truth, the Founding Fathers of our country were not just those of the revolutionary generation, but that of their great-grandfathers, like Reverend John Lothrop, who fought for religious and political freedom some 150 years earlier.

In addition to the story she tells so very well, the author provides five useful appendices with time lines, historical and genealogical information, and lists of descendents including several American Presidents.

The book can be purchased from Oxbow Publishing, 179 Oxbow Marina Drive, Isleton, CA 95641 for \$19.95 plus \$6.00 shipping.

(A Landlubber Goes West - Continued from Page 1)

There was nothing at Mt. Hood but Donner Pass, being on the main railroad line to the east, was open. He sold me a train ticket to Sacramento and I stayed right on the train. I spent a full week at Donner Pass, had a good vacation and went back to Sacramento.

LEAVE HANFORD FOR CALIFORNIA & HAWAII

I didn’t like loafing so went to the Sacramento employment office. They told me a man named Johnstone, a Clerk of Courts, was needing a man so I went to his office to see him. He had a little walnut ranch up in the mountains. It had some timber and a little sawmill. He had a man on the place and would need someone if he started up the mill. There was a little ranch house on the place and Johnstone said I could stay in it. I told him I had no car and would have no gas coupons if I had one. He said, “I am in a position to get you all the coupons you would need.” So I went out and bought a 1937 Chevrolet Coup with a large trunk. What a relief to have a place to put my stuff. He gave me a key to the house and a bunch of stamps and I went up to the ranch. Nothing was being done with the walnut orchard. The man in charge did not seem too happy to see me and begrudgingly found a couple days work re-piling some lumber from a previous run. He said it was not dry enough to get logs out of the woods and wouldn’t be for awhile.

(A Landlubber Goes West - Continued on Page 6)

Rachel Linnell Wynn, Historian Society (\$1 to \$49)

- ◆ Gerald Gutzman
- ◆ Martha and Allen Hansen
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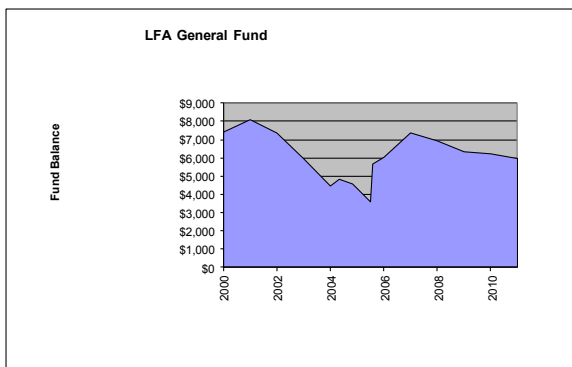
Following completion of the Samuel Linnell gravestone in 2009, the Gravestone Fund entered a much-needed replenishment mode. The LFA gratefully acknowledges these recent contributors:

- ◆ Richard and Roberta Bockovich
- ◆ Dina L. Deupree
- ◆ Constance Dufresne
- ◆ Mary Jo England
- ◆ Ralph and Carol Fritz
- ◆ Martha and Allen Hansen
- ◆ Orrell Linnell
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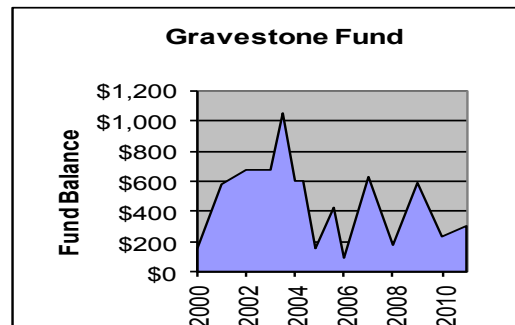
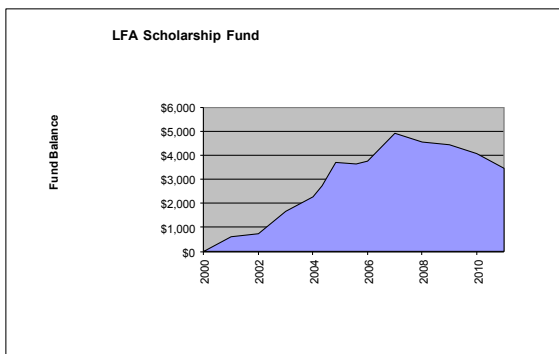
Funds Status

Thanks to generous support from members via dues and contributions, our Linnell Family Association continued doing the good work that we expect. In 2010, this was primarily newsletter mailings and scholarship payment.

A healthy flow of member dues sustained the General Fund's balance at roughly \$6,000. Membership dues this year totaled \$1,090, partly on the strength of 4 new life memberships. Purchases of 7 Descendants of Robert Linnell books, plus sales of the additions booklet, brought in \$306. These revenues helped offset the \$1,893 expended sending newsletters.



Yet another member of the remarkable Sunde clan impressed the LFA Scholarship Committee, as Abby Marie garnered the 2010 award. Ample contributions from numerous LFA members have kept the Scholarship Fund well endowed. Contributors since October 2009 are listed in the next column.



Linnell Family Association Scholarship Fund (LFASF)



2011 Linnell Family Scholarship

ATTENTION ALL CURRENT HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS AND COLLEGE STUDENTS:

If you are a current high school senior or student of an accredited higher education program and a descendent of Robert Linnell, you could be our next \$1000 scholarship winner! Mail your scholarship application between now and **April 15th** to be eligible for this award.

- ◆ Information about the scholarship and application can be found on the LFA webpage: linnellfamilyassociation.com
- ◆ Questions about the scholarship can be emailed to: scholarshipfund@linnellfamilyassociation.com.

Donations to the LFA Scholarship Fund

Your generous donations to the LFA Scholarship Fund allow us to continue to award our deserving Linnell students a scholarship to apply towards their higher education.

(Samuel Linnell -War Of 1812 - Continued from Page 1)

Sackett's Harbor quickly grew ten-fold to become a town of 6,000 people, and the biggest target for British/Canadian invasion. On two occasions, the British assaulted Sackett's Harbor, first on July 24 1812, and again on May 28/29, 1813.



During the second battle, on the day of May 28, Samuel Linnell was captured while serving with a New York Militia unit raised by General Jacob Brown of Jefferson County. Samuel, along with some 150 American prisoners was taken by ship to Halifax, Nova Scotia, on Canada's Eastern Shore. He was held for 14 months at the Military Prison on Melville Island, which Betsy and I visited several years ago. The Melville Island prison became so crowded that some prisoners were held on board prison ships in the Harbor. Family tradition holds that Samuel was on one of those ships.

In 1814, prisoner exchanges were negotiated, and Samuel, with many others, was taken to Boston and left there. From his pay records, he must have arrived in Boston in late July 1814. He was also paid for twenty days rations for the time it took him to walk from Boston back to Grindstone Island. Think of the worry on the part of Eunice Mosher Linnell, his wife, and the seven children then living. She was certainly informed when he was taken prisoner in May of 1813, but would have known little else until he walked in the door in late August 1814.

Those of us descended from his son Thomas Jefferson Linnell are glad he made it home, as Thomas was born the next year, in October 1815. Thomas lived a long life, passing away in the home of my grandparents in Belvidere, IL in 1912. As noted in the book cited above, the time of the War of 1812 was one of extreme political division in America, with the Federalist Party [that of John Adams and Alexander Hamilton] taking a pro-British view, and the Jeffersonian Democrats [that of Thomas Jefferson and James Madison] taking an anti-British view. By naming his son Thomas Jefferson Linnell, we can easily guess where Samuel's politics resided.

A Landlubber Goes West - Continued from Page 3)

I stayed in the house and got a job driving a dump truck for a man who had four trucks and was building a short piece of new road. This lasted two weeks and since nothing was being done about starting up the mill, I went back to Sacramento and turned in the key. I still had lots of gas coupons left.

At the employment office I was told they needed firemen at Pearl Harbor. The Pearl Harbor across an ocean? I gave the idea no thought at all. In fact, it was not even an idea. I knew no one in Sacramento I could even talk to except perhaps the friendly sort of man from whom I had bought the car. I visited him about every day. After a couple of days when he asked if I had any luck, he says, "Why don't you go to Pearl Harbor? I stopped there at the time of the First World War and thought it would be pretty nice". Well, I hadn't asked myself "why not." I went back to employment for all the details. It was Civil Service - war appointment and one had to sign up for 18 months. The pay would be pretty good and quarters furnished. I had no ties so signed up. The recruiter put down 2nd class engineman which would be a little better than fireman. Under that, I was allowed to operate a steam winch.

I had to give three references and of course, they would be from Maine, so it took nearly a month to get them all back. I went under pay immediately and had to report to work at a high pressure boiler plant at Mare Island. There was nothing there I could do except hang around. Finally my references came back and I was put on a boat and sailed out under the Golden Gate Bridge bound for Honolulu.

The boat wasn't large, used in peace time probably to ply between Honolulu and California ports carrying cargo and passengers. She wasn't fast, it taking eight days from San Francisco to Honolulu. We had about 20 military jeeps lashed to the deck. For those eight days it was perfect weather. It was a good experience but not much anyone could do. I was under pay and if called on to help with some work I was supposed to but I was not called. I'm sure I wouldn't have been able to as I was prone to seasickness. I spent most of my days on deck where I could keep my eyes on the horizon. The whole ship had to run in 'black out' mode. All doors and opening had to be kept covered.

Eight days brought us to Honolulu Harbor. We were taken to the housing area and my home for the duration would be CHA3 (Civilian Housing Area). There must have been a dozen or more two story buildings. They were long and two rooms wide. The rooms were large, made to

accommodate two double bunks. When they could, they kept it down to 3 men in a room. There was no glass. Large plywood panels recessed into the walls if the wind blew. Of course the openings were screened. I had a room on the first floor. As we walked into the area, voices from both sides of the street shouted, "You'll be sorry."

On the first day we attended an orientation meeting with a lot of do's and don'ts. Don't walk alone on the streets of Honolulu because the native boys resent the sailors taking their girls. Don't eat too much pineapple or your teeth will rot and fall out. The pineapple has no minerals. This is a coral island. There were mess halls and police stations. There was an outdoor theatre where one might see a movie through without a shower. We were next to Hickam Field, the Air Force base and we were issued a pass, but most civilians would not have much business there, only the cocktail lounge.

For a good part of the time I had the same two roommates. After sixty years I can't even remember their names. One was a mechanic and worked days. The other was a carpenter and worked nights. He must have had friends on the islands as he never spent weekends in the room. They were both good men to share a large room with but you never become good friends. The mechanic and I brought bicycles and rode some.

I got to Honolulu once in awhile to shop a little in the daytime but there was not much I needed. I was always some creative and like to be working on something so I bought a few simple hand tools and some supplies.

The rooms were very comfortable, especially at night when there was lots of air and it was cool. No one seemed to use a radio and this was before television. I went to Waikiki I think twice, once to see what it was like and I made a super effort to go swimming on New Year's Day. It was very disappointing with two big hotels built right up to the waters edge. To have to be careful not to step on and get cut on coral took some of the pleasure out of it.

To find someone to do things with and see new sights is quite difficult. There were mostly family men there to make money to send home. Some were there to gamble and that was all they wanted to do. To me it was not so much fun to do many things alone.

Editor's Note: The remainder of Orrell's "*A Landlubber Goes West*" article will be published in future newsletters.

From the Editors

We invite you to share your stories with our cousins around the globe! Submissions are preferred via email. Please include the text of the article in the body of the email. All pictures should be high-quality JPGs. If you are unable to submit via email, please send regular post to the editors, Brian and Kathy Linnell. Take a look at the Steering Committee list for the contact information.

REMINDER!!!

If you are willing to read the LFA newsletter on the website versus a hard copy, please send an e-mail to Lori Linnell at membership@linnellfamilyassociation.com and inform her you no longer wish to receive a hard copy of the newsletter. The money we save on printing and postage can be used for other worthwhile projects.

CHECK IT OUT TODAY!

Brad Johnson has taken over the maintenance of the LFA web site. The new LFA interactive webpage is now available at "www.linnellfamilyassociation.com" and you will find the most recent newsletters (pictures and graphics in color), the scholarship application forms, pioneer photos, reunion information, family photos, genealogy, membership information, etc. We can now offer you direct online contact with your steering committee and more!



Suggestions for Your "To Do" List

- ◆ THINK SPRING!!!!!!
- ◆ Send changes in your family, (births, deaths, marriages) to Pam Dittus, Vital Records.
- ◆ Send your 2011 LFA Membership Dues to Scott Linnell, Treasurer.
- ◆ Share a family story and pictures with the LFA Newsletter editors for publication in the newsletter.
- ◆ Extend a helping hand to someone in need.

Linnell Family Record Update

Adam A Reel 11a,b15,515,642,2 married Amy Lynn Thome on 3 Sept. 2010, in Donalsonville, GA.

THE LINNELL FAMILY ASSOCIATION

Steering Committee 2009 – 2012

The purposes of the Association are to promote fellowship among Linnell Family members through reunions, the publication of the Linnell Family Newsletter, and the preservation of family records.

CHAIRMAN

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Washington, DC 20002 chairman@linnellfamilyassociation.com

VICE CHAIRMAN

No one at this time.

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Maryan Ainsworth scholarshipfund@linnellfamilyassociation.com
Barrie Westerwick
Gail Wahlstrom

Linnell Family Association
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& RENEWAL

Please register me as a member of the Linnell Family Association in the following category:

Single Life Time — \$125.00 flat fee

Single Annual — \$15.00 per year

Family Annual — \$25.00 per year

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Street: _____

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Colts Neck, NJ 07722

BOOK ORDER FORM

The Descendants of Robert Linnell
Second Edition — \$35

Additions and Corrections
1994-1997 — \$8

Prices include postage and handling

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